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50X1

1. The purge...of Beria was no surprise [redacted] The only surprise [redacted] was that this purge occurred in such a relatively short time after Stalin's death and that its victim was the "strong man" of Soviet hierarchy. In its implications, [redacted] this event is apt to create a rather dangerous situation for the West because Malenkov in his foreign policy will not be hampered by any restrictions coming from the three men rule. In this regard, [redacted] the purge is the end of an accomplished fact rather than the beginning of some troubles to come. This impression is strongly justified through the appointment of Sergei Kruglov as the new Minister of the Interior. 50X1
2. This man, who is an old time career officer of the secret police, in this high post will certainly not have the same political power that Beria has had, but through his appointment Malenkov in all probability was assured of the complete and loyal support of the secret police organization. Our best, and only hope, of course, would have been to see the secret police fight for its former chief, which, of course, would have meant the outbreak of the Civil War in the USSR, for which we are all hoping. 50X1
3. The inclusion of Kruglov in the Soviet Government, [redacted] not only forestalls every such hope, but on the contrary is likely to bring with it a further consolidation of the post-Stalin Government in the USSR. 50X1

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